



Steven C. Shifreen, M.D.  
Christopher P. Norval, DC, PA-C, LPTA  
Julie W. Shifreen, RPT

645 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105  
Phone: (860) 570-3400 Fax: (860) 570-0750

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General Law Committee of the Connecticut State Legislature  
Physician Assistant Testimony

Dear Sir/Madam:

I have been a physician assistant since 2014 and a healthcare clinician in other related fields since 1997. My approach to patient care has always been the utilization of safe multi-modal treatment strategies in order to optimize function and the overall health of my patients. Our practice specializes in the non-surgical treatment of musculoskeletal injuries, as well as patients suffering from debilitating chronic pain conditions.

In addition to clinical practice, I have dedicated the past 5 years of my career to scientific research and advancements in clinical utility for medical cannabis. I have served in multiple advisory roles within the field, and currently serve as the medical director for a research and development company specializing in transdermal delivery of cannabinoids.

As a physician assistant, I am educated, trained, and licensed to provide compressive medical evaluations and develop care plans that are best suited for my patients. Care plans may include nutritional counseling, physical therapy, interventional procedures, and prescription medications, such as opioid analgesic therapy. Unfortunately, physician assistants are currently unable to recommend qualified patients for the Connecticut Medical Marijuana Program. Along with our physician and nurse practitioner colleagues, physician assistants are medically qualified to recommend this potentially safer treatment option.

It is my sincere hope that these statutes will be amended, providing physician assistants the ability to improve access to care for eligible and clinically appropriate patients. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Norval, MS, PA-C